

the NTSB has had concerns with the unacceptable risks posed by lithium batteries. This legislation requires the Administrator of PHMSA, in coordination with the FAA, to issue a regulation for the safe transportation of lithium cells and batteries. This regulation will include, among other things, requirements for: proper identification of lithium cells and batteries on board aircraft, packaging performance requirements, and other safety measures.

The legislation also mandates implementation of an NTSB recommendation first issued over 10 years ago regarding wet lines. Currently, 30 to 50 gallons of flammable materials, such as fuel, can be transported in unprotected loading lines beneath cargo tank trucks. Over the past 10 years, there have been 184 incidents in which these wet lines were damaged or ruptured. H.R. 4016 prohibits the transportation of certain flammable liquids in the external product piping of cargo tank motor vehicles on newly manufactured vehicles within two years of the date of enactment, and for all existing vehicles beginning in 2021.

H.R. 4016 also includes several requirements to strengthen emergency response capabilities. The ability of first responders to adequately identify and respond to a hazardous material substance release is critical. The bill enhances training for emergency responders and requires that responders are provided a higher level of training, known as Operations Level training. The bill also requires the Secretary of Transportation to develop minimum standards for those who provide hazardous materials emergency response information services. This provision will guarantee that these services are staffed on a 24-hour basis to ensure that, day and night, our emergency response capability is not jeopardized.

The legislation makes significant safety enhancements to the "special permits and approvals" process. H.R. 4016 requires that, prior to granting any special permit or approval, the Secretary shall make a determination that a person is fit, willing, and able to conduct the authorized activity. In part, this provision requires PHMSA to perform a fitness review of any person who requests an exemption from regulation to ensure that the applicant's safety record, accident and incident history are reviewed before any special permit is authorized. Currently, PHMSA reviews thousands of applications for special permits and approvals each year, with no review of an applicant's safety record. The bill will ensure that any person requesting an exemption from the regulations have a safe record, a compliant record, and a good reason for needing an exemption from the regulations.

PHMSA is tasked with an enormous safety mission, yet it currently has only 35 investigators (plus seven supervisors) for the entire nation. H.R. 4016, authorizes 30 new inspectors for the program—almost doubling the number of inspectors. This bill also strengthens the inspection program by requiring the Secretary to carry out a new hazardous material enforcement program to develop uniform standards for inspectors and investigators; to train hazardous materials inspectors and investigators on how to collect, analyze, and publish findings from accidents and incidents; and to train hazardous materials inspectors on how to identify noncompliance with hazmat regula-

tions and take the appropriate kind of enforcement action.

The safe transport of hazardous materials is critical and affects the entire nation. H.R. 4016, the "Hazardous Material Transportation Safety Act of 2009," will increase the hazardous materials safety program, strengthen emergency response capabilities, and increase enforcement of hazardous materials laws and regulations.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 4016, the "Hazardous Material Transportation Safety Act of 2009."

OPPOSING ANY ENDORSEMENT OR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS FACT FINDING MISSION ON THE GAZA CONFLICT

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H. Res. 867, a resolution that calls on the Secretary of State and the President to unequivocally oppose further consideration of the Goldstone Report in international arenas. This resolution sends a clear message to the international community: the Goldstone report does nothing to advance peace and security in the Middle East. Rather, it serves to reinforce the deep mistrust that pervades the region and excuses the actions of terrorist groups and their state sponsors.

The Goldstone report ignores the facts. The terrorist threat surrounding Israel's defensive operations in Gaza required a decisive response, and any sovereign nation would have—and should have—done what Israel did. In fact, Richard Goldstone himself said, "If this was a court of law, there would have been nothing proven."

The Goldstone report disregards what it means to fight against terrorists who use human shields and have no regard for human life. The findings and conclusion of the report have ominous consequences for the United States and other countries who seek to prevent terrorist threats from taking root around the world. We cannot allow the Goldstone report to set a precedent—the stakes are too high.

This report was not guided by a commitment to human rights, but rather motivated by a bias against Israel. Now is the time for the United Nations to immediately turn its attention to the very real human rights violators around the world. Human rights victims are pleading for the world's attention. I would urge U.N. member states to devote time and thought to the realities of human rights around the world—not Israel. Israel, with strong democratic and judicial institutions, can make any necessary determinations about how to move forward from here.

I would like to thank Chairman BERMAN and Ranking Member ROS-LEHTINEN for their leadership in authoring this resolution and bringing it to the floor. This is a true example of the importance of bipartisanship because the U.S.-Israel relationship is stronger when we work across party lines.

I would urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

HONORING TYLER TITUS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Tyler Titus, a very special young man who has earned a spot on the National USA Karate Team. I join with Tyler's family and friends in expressing best wishes on his significant achievement. I commend Tyler on attaining such a high honor and wish him the best of luck as he competes in the World Karate Championships in Dublin, Ireland, this October.

Gaining recognition for this remarkable achievement reflects both Tyler's hard work and dedication. As a member of the stand-alone Missouri team, as well as the team with the largest number of students to be selected from a single school, Tyler should be proud of his accomplishments. He is a member of a celebrated team and has represented the state of Missouri well. With such drive and determination I am certain Tyler will be a strong contribution to the national team.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully request you join with me in commending Tyler Titus for his success with Sensei Mark Long's Shotokan Karate team and for his effort put forth in achieving this prestigious goal.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF AIR FORCE JUNIOR ROTC INSTRUCTOR LES CHAMBERS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Leslie R. Chambers, a Northwest Florida leader who is retiring after a lifetime of public service to his country and his community. Les spent his career serving others, and I am proud to honor his dedication and service.

Born on October 31, 1942, Les Chambers joined the Air Force in 1961 after graduating from high school. Following completion of training, he was first assigned to Laon Air Base, France. His Air Force career took him across the globe. Along the way he earned two associates degrees in applied science, then completed his bachelor's degree in management at the University of New Hampshire. He is also a graduate of the Aerospace Defense Command Noncommissioned Officer Academy, where he received the Commandant's Award, and a graduate of the USAF Senior NCO Academy.

Les retired in 1994 with over 33 years of faithful service to his country, 17 of which were spent overseas. His military decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with three oak-leaf clusters and the Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak-leaf clusters. He was selected to serve his last three years as part of the "High Year of Tenure" program, a distinction reserved for less than one percent of the force.

After retiring from the Air Force, he settled in Valparaiso, Florida and began working for the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services (HRS) as a Senior Counselor